

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SHUM, ICRC, GV

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ICRC VISIT TO GUINEA

REF: A) GENEVA 6924 B) STATE 186662 C) CONAKRY 1369
D) STATE 181764

1. SHORTLY AFTER RETURN FROM LEAVE AUGUST 22, CHARGE
SHOULD SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI TO
DISCUSS POSSIBLE ICRC VISIT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES.

2. CHARGE SHOULD REMIND BEAVOGUI OF HIS OFFER TO VICE
PRESIDENT MONDALE AND ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER TO
RECEIVE IN GUINEA "ANY DELEGATION TO OBSERVE THE
HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF THE REGIME". YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT
WE UNDERSTAND HIS OFFER TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE CONTEXT
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OF HIS EXPLANATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN
GUINEA, WHICH HAS ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE INTERNATIONAL
ATTENTION. YOU SHOULD STATE THAT, IN VIEW OF THIS
ADMINISTRATION'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND PRESIDENT
CARTER'S PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO THE ISSUE, WE CONSIDER
THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFER TO BE AN ESSENTIAL FACTOR IN
THE IMPROVEMENT OF U.S.-GUINEAN RELATIONS. YOU

SHOULD SEEK BEAVOGUI'S ADVICE ON THE MOST APPROPRIATE MEANS OF PROCEEDING TO ORGANIZE A TRIP BY AN INTERNATIONAL

GROUP TO OBSERVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN GUINEA.

3. IF BEAVOGUI APPEARS RECEPTIVE, YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT A GOOD WAY TO BEGIN WOULD BE A VISIT BY A UNIQUELY QUALIFIED AND RESPECTED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SUCH AS THE ICRC. YOU MAY FURTHER INDICATE PER REFTEL A THAT WE HAVE BEEN AWARE FOR SOME TIME OF THE ICRC'S LONG STANDING DESIRE TO RENEW A PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH GUINEA AND THAT WE UNDERSTAND THAT, IN THIS SPIRIT, THE ICRC INTENDS TO APPROACH THE GOG IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INITIATING A DIALOGUE. YOU SHOULD ALSO INDICATE PER REFTEL D THAT THE ICRC'S TRADITIONAL MISSION IS TO VISIT PRISONERS AT THEIR PLACE OF DETENTION. THE ICRC DOES NOT PUBLICIZE ITS VISITS (EXCEPT TO ANNOUNCE THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN PLACE) AND SUBMITS REPORTS ON ITS FINDINGS ONLY TO THE GOVERNMENT CONCERNED. NOTE THAT, SINCE WE ARE DISCUSSING A POSSIBLE ICRC VISIT PURSUANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFER, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THE GOG PRIVATELY SHARE WITH US THE FINDINGS OF ANY ICRC REPORT. YOU SHOULD ALSO ASK WHAT WOULD BE THE BEST GOG CHANNEL FOR ICRC TO USE IN PURSUING THE MATTER DIRECTLY.

4. YOU SHOULD ASSESS PROBABILITY OF GUINEA RECEIVING
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MEANINGFUL VISIT BY ICRC IN LIGHT OF CONVERSATION.

5. FOR GENEVA: YOU SHOULD AWAIT CONFIRMING INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO APPROACHING ICRC TO INFORM THEM OF RESULT OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GOG.

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